

Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims, including amendments to the claims, is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Steam iron according to claim 1~~ A steam iron,
comprising:

_____ a soleplate having a contacting surface for contacting objects to be ironed, and
at least one elevated surface which is located at a higher level than the contacting
surface;

_____ a steam generator for generating steam, which is separately arranged with
respect to the soleplate; and

_____ two separately controllable heating means wherein a first of the heating means
is associated with the soleplate and is arranged for heating the soleplate and wherein
a second of the heating means is associated with the steam generator and is
arranged for heating a content of the steam generator;

_____ wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate are exclusively
arranged on the at least one elevated surface of the soleplate, and

wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate comprise at least
one flat resistive heating track.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Steam iron according to claim 1, comprising~~ A steam
iron, comprising:

_____ a soleplate having a contacting surface for contacting objects to be ironed, and
at least one elevated surface which is located at a higher level than the contacting
surface;

_____ a steam generator for generating steam, which is separately arranged with respect to the soleplate; and

_____ two separately controllable heating means wherein a first of the heating means is associated with the soleplate and is arranged for heating the soleplate and wherein a second of the heating means is associated with the steam generator and is arranged for heating a content of the steam generator; and

at least one embossed area which is provided in the soleplate and which forms a recess at a bottom side of the soleplate wherein the recess is designed for use as a steam distribution channel during operation of the steam iron,

_____ wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate are exclusively arranged on the at least one elevated surface of the soleplate.

4. (Currently Amended) Steam iron according to claim 3, wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate are arranged on a top surface of the embossed area.

5. (Currently Amended) Steam iron according to claim 3, comprising a wire mesh for covering a bottom side of the embossed area.

6. (Currently Amended) Steam iron according to claim 5, wherein the wire mesh is attached to the soleplate by means of detachably arranged fastening means.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Steam iron according to claim 7~~ A steam iron, comprising:

_____ a soleplate having a contacting surface for contacting objects to be ironed, and at least one elevated surface, which is located at a higher level than the contacting surface;

a steam generator for generating steam, which is separately arranged with respect to the soleplate; and

two separately controllable heating means wherein a first of the heating means is associated with the soleplate and is arranged for heating the soleplate and wherein a second of the heating means is associated with the steam generator and is arranged for heating a content of the steam generator;

wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate are exclusively arranged on the at least one elevated surface of the soleplate

wherein the soleplate comprises at least one steam opening for letting through steam to the objects to be ironed, and at least one canopy covering said at least one steam opening whereby a canopy chamber is delimited which is designed for use as a steam distribution chamber during operation of the steam iron, and

wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate are arranged on a roof plate of the canopy.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Soleplate~~ A soleplate for a steam iron according to claim [[1]]2, comprising a substantially planar sheet and at least one embossed area provided in said sheet.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Soleplate~~ A soleplate for a steam iron according to claim [[7]]8, comprising a substantially planar sheet at least one steam opening arranged in said sheet and at least one canopy covering said at least one steam opening.

11. (New) The steam iron of claim 3, wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate comprise at least one flat resistive heating track.

12. (New) The steam iron of claim 4, wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate comprise at least one flat resistive heating track.

13. (New) The steam iron of claim 5, wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate comprise at least one flat resistive heating track.

14. (New) The steam iron of claim 6, wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate comprise at least one flat resistive heating track.